

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8625

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SW, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRO-SWEDISH EXCHANGE OF VISITS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT RUDOLPH KIRCHSCHLAEGER WILL MAKE THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO SWEDEN MAY 18-20, CONCLUDING SERIES OF RECENT PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL VISITS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE INVOLVED AUSTRIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER AND CHANCELLOR AND SWEDEN'S KING, PRIME MINISTER AND - MOST RECENTLY - DEFENSE MINISTER.

2. DEFENSE MINISTER HOLMQVIST ENDED FOUR-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO AUSTRIA MAY 14. INTERVIEWED BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, HOLMQVIST SAID THAT DEFENSE WAS NOT A PARTISAN PROBLEM IN SWEDEN AND THAT SWEDEN WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE ITS CURRENT DEFENSE EFFORT. DETENTE, HE SAID, WILL GO ON BUT A MASSING OF FORCES (PRESUMBL Y EASTERN) IN NORTHERN EUROPE SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED. HOLMQVIST DENIED HAVING TALKED WITH HIS HOST ABOUT POSSIBLE SALES OF SWEDISH INTERCEPTORS TO AUSTRIA BUT SAID "CLOSER COOPERATION IN CERTAIN FIELDS" HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: COMMENT: EXCHANGE
OF VISITS WITH SWEDEN IS PART OF GENERAL AUSTRIAN
EFFORT TO MAINTAIN CONTACTS THAT WILL ASSURE AUSTRIA
ROLES IN WEST EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS AND IN
EAST-WEST/NORTH-SOUTH CONTEXTS. BESIDES
MUTUAL INTERESTS AS NEUTRALS, SPECIAL AUSTRIAN TIE TO
SWEDEN RESULTS FROM CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S WARTIME
EXILE IN SWEDEN AND CHAMPIONSHIP OF SWEDISH-STYLE
SOCIAL DEMOCRACY IN AUSTRIA AGAINST FORMERLY DOMINANT
AUSTRO-MARXIST APPROACH. AUSTRIAN SOCIALISTS, UNDER
ATTACK FOR DEFENSE INADEQUACIES AT HOME, PROBABLY SEE
SOME ADVANTAGE VIS-A-VIS RADICALY CRITICS OF DEFENSE IN
THEIR PARTY'S LEFT-WING IN STILL CLOSER IDENTIFICATION
WITH SWEDES BUT, IN WAKE OF BERGMAN/LINDGREN AFFAIRS
WIDELY REPORTED IN AUSTRIAN PRESS AND OF PEOPLE'S
PARTY CHARGES THAT AUSTRIAN SOCIALISTS ARE HEADED FOR
SWEDISH-LIKE EXCESSES, IDENTIFICATION WITH SWEDES IS,
ON BALANCE, PROBABLY NOT NOW PARTICULARLY HELPFUL FOR
GOVERNING AUSTRIAN SOCIALISTS. BUCHANAN

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